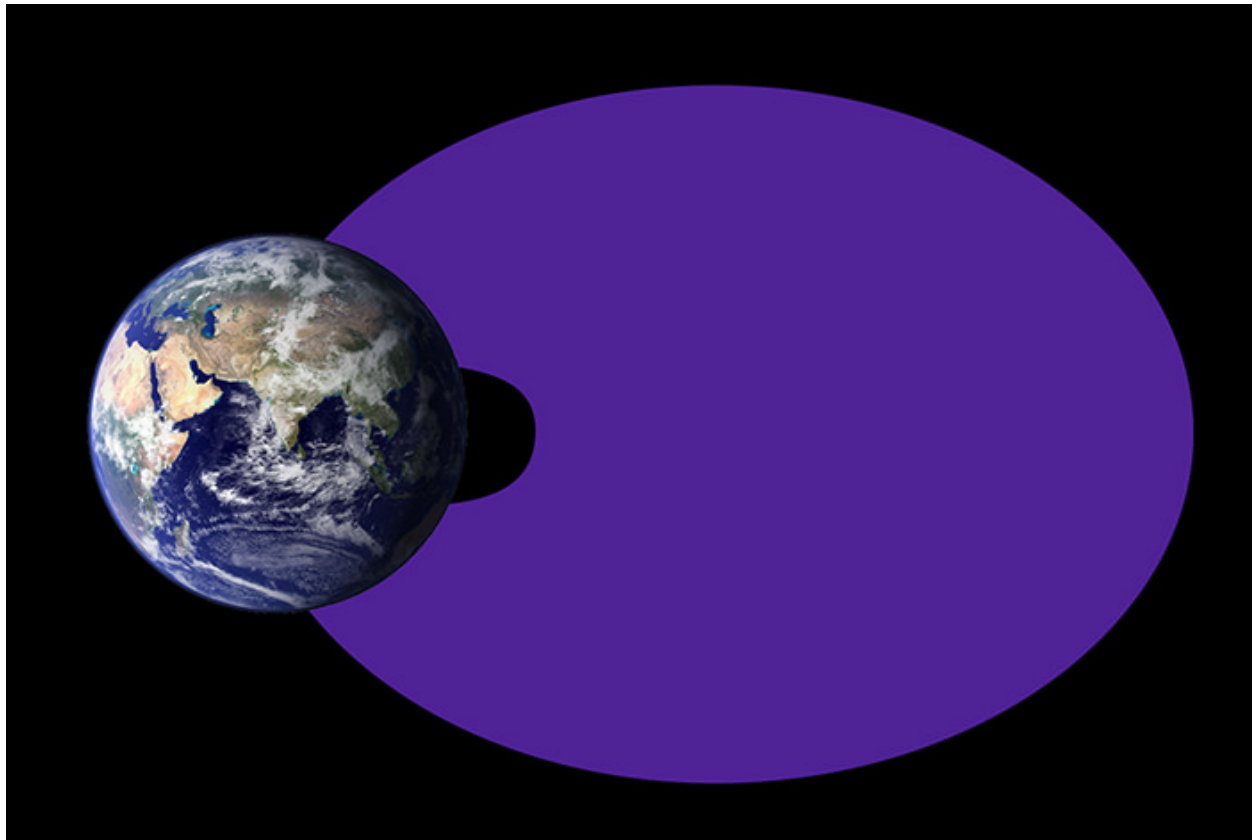




A new picture of the Van Allen Belts

January 21, 2016



[NASA's Van Allen Probes Revolutionize View of Radiation Belts](#)

About 600 miles from Earth's surface is the first of two donut-shaped electron swarms, known as the Van Allen Belts, or the radiation belts. Understanding the shape and size of the belts, which can shrink and swell in response to incoming radiation from the sun, is crucial for protecting our technology in space. The harsh radiation isn't good for satellites' health, so scientists wish to know just which orbits could be jeopardized in different situations.

[Read more.](#)

Sarah Frazier for GSFC News - Jan. 20, 2016

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